

[CONTINUED.]

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS,
PUBLISHED IN THE PUNJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES, CENTRAL INDIA, AND RAJPUTANA.

Received up to 2nd January, 1884.

POLITICAL.

THE *Oudh Akhbar* (Lucknow), of the 29th December, publishes a long article, contributed by a correspondent, on the subject of Egyptian affairs. The writer states that, as the false Mehdi poses as a religious champion, Turkey would doubtless be best able to deal with him. The British Government is right in invoking her intervention, as is evident from a London telegram of the 18th December. The Sultan being the head of the Muhammadan community, the advent of his army in the Soudan would be a signal for the dispersion of the followers of the Mehdi. But it is to be regretted that the Porte maintains its attitude of indifference and has yet exhibited no sign of activity. If Turkey be sworn to intervention, England should once more hold out a helping hand to the Khedive. The writer has a firm conviction that the British Government will not allow the blood of the British officers, who fell with the Egyptian army in the Soudan, to go unavenged. If the Khedive were left to shift for himself, the fate of the Egyptian kingdom would be sealed and the destruction of that kingdom would involve enormous losses to Turkey and England. Vigorous measures should

Classification.
610 copies.

be adopted to suppress the rebellion without delay. If the Soudan rebel managed to reach the two holy cities in Arabia, he would come to be regarded as the true Mehdi, large numbers of Muhammadans would readily flock to his standard, and in that case neither the British Government nor the Porte would find it easy to deal with the difficulty. (The *Naiyer-i-Azim*, Moradabad, of the 24th December, also urges that the British Government should interfere and put down the rebellion.)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation,
1,800 copies.

Rájá Shiva Prasád's
Bhugol Hastámatak and
the Mahárájá of Kashmír.

The *Akhbár-i-Am* (Lahore), of the 29th December, publishes a letter addressed by Rájá Shiva Prasád to the editor on the 16th idem with reference to the article that appeared in a late issue of that paper taking exception to a passage in the Rájá's book called the *Bhugol Hastámatak*—vide page 383 of the Selections from vernacular newspapers for the week ending the 31st October, 1883. The Rájá thanks the editor for drawing his attention to the book, and remarks that he wrote the book as long ago as 1851 or 1852. He himself paid a visit to Kashmír in the time of Mahárájá Gulab Singh, and the account given by him of that State in his book in question was based on personal observation. Some time ago he intended to revise the whole book with a view to making necessary alterations in accordance with the changes that have taken place in the country since the compilation of the book, but he was unable to carry out this intention from want of time. However, he has thought it necessary to alter his description of Kashmír, and has sent printed copies of a notice to the Superintendents of the Government Press at Allahabad and Munshi Nawal Kishor's Press at Lucknow requesting them to attach a copy of the notice to each copy of the book. The notice is as follows:—The *Bhugol Hastámatak* was written in 1851 or 1852, and the author's account of Kashmír was based on personal observation. But the state of things in that State is said to have entirely changed under Mahárájá Ranbir Singh. He is reputed to be

a very pious and popular Prince. His fame has spread all over the country, and he takes deep interest in promoting the welfare of his subjects. Kashmir is now really a paradise, and is in the possession of gods. The present Mahárájá rules over his kingdom like Indra. Under these circumstances, the passage which commences from line 49, page 93, in Part II. of the *Bhugol Hastámalak* and ends in line 23, page 94, should be cut out. (In commenting on the Rájá's letter and the notice, the editor expresses satisfaction at the omission of the objectional passage by the Rájá and thanks him for it.)

The *Nasím-i-Agra*, of the 30th December, advertising to the next North-Western Provinces' Pleadership Examination, which will commence on the 7th January, observes that the Basement Act has been included in the subjects of examination. But an Urdú translation of the Act has not yet been published, nor does the Act, by the bye, apply to these provinces. The question is how will poor Urdú-knowing candidates be able to answer questions in that Act? There is another thing of which both English and vernacular candidates should take note. Hitherto separate papers were set in the Hindú and the Muhammadan law, each carrying a maximum of 100 marks, but it is believed that at the next examination only one paper will be set in the two subjects, and thus the total number of marks for the two subjects will be only 100 instead of 200. This change will involve a loss of many marks to those candidates who have got up those subjects with special care. Timely notice of the change should have been given.

The same paper states that it has more than once drawn the Urdú translations of attention of Government to the fact that the Urdú translations of Acts are not very accurate, and that Urdú-knowing men are sometimes quite unable to understand the law in consequence. There is no uniformity in the translations, which is of the highest consequence in all civil and criminal suits which before

Circulation
325 copies.

importance. Sometimes an English legal term is rendered by one vernacular term, and sometimes by another. Some time ago the editor referred to the existence of this defect in the translations of the Trusts, the Transfer of Property, and the Contract Act. The editor then points out some inaccuracies in the translation of Act X of 1882 (The Criminal Procedure Code).

The same paper states that a clerk, employed in the Collector's office at Muttra, lately applied for leave for some days owing to the death of his father, but the Collector did not grant him any leave. We have also heard of several other instances in which clerks asked for leave in order that they might go home and tend their fathers, mothers, wives, or sons, who lay on their death beds, but leave was refused to them by Collectors, and some of them resigned their appointments in consequence. Perhaps hereafter when a clerk, employed in a Collector's office, dies the Collector may order his dead body to be dragged to office. Are such men fit for Collectorships? Do they regard the performance of any ceremonies on the part of any person on the death of his father, mother, brother, or wife as unnecessary?

Circulation,
350 copies.

The Kavivachan Sudhá (Benares), of the 31st December, after quoting the comments made by the *Pioneer* in a late issue on the complaint of the Collector of Darbhanga about the lending of money by the Mahárája of Darbhanga to the people on interest, observes that the Collector cannot bear the prosperity of other persons. He would like to see the wealth of all India come into his own pocket or the Government treasury. We are disposed to think that he is not on friendly terms with the Mahárája, and that this is the reason why he has brought the charge against the latter. The *Pioneer* concurs with the Collector in condemning the Mahárája. But we are at a loss to understand how the

Grant of advances by the
Mahárája of Darbhanga to
his people.

banking business carried on by the Mahárájá could affect the income from the license-tax in any way. The income from the tax may have fallen off in either of the two following ways :—Some persons may have abandoned trade owing to heavy assessment of the tax, or traders may have been over-taxed at first, and assessments may have been reduced on revision. What fault has the Mahárájá committed if he has advanced money to his ryots at moderate rates of interest, in order to save them from the extortion of unconscienous Mahájans? He is by no means liable to the payment of the license-tax. When the Government is itself anxious to establish agricultural banks for the benefit of agricultural classes, it is unjust to find fault with the Mahárájá for aiding his people.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* (Lahore), of the 31st December, ex-

Circulation,
450 copies.

Number of native mem-
bers in the Viceroy's Le-
gislative Council.

presses satisfaction at the appointment of Mr. Amir Ali as a member of the Supreme Legislative Council in place of Saiyid Ahmad Khán, but regrets to state that the native element in the Council is too small. At all events there should be one native member to represent every ten millions of people. Obviously the legislature cannot legislate properly unless it is fully acquainted with the customs, feelings, and wants of the people. Hence it is necessary that every class of the community should be adequately represented in the Viceroy's Legislative Council.

The *Almora Akhbár*, of the 24th December, publishes a

Circulation,
98 copies.

Hindi and the Educa-
tion Commission.

letter from the editor of the *Bhárat Mittra*, a Hindi newspaper published at Calcutta. In that letter the editor of the *Bhárat Mittra* regrets to state that the Education Commission has left the important question of Hindi *versus* Urdu *in statu quo*, but advises the editors of other Hindi papers not to abandon the cause of Hindi through despair, and asks them to devise some measures to promote that cause. The *Almora Akhbár* observes

that the way in which Dr. Hunter has dealt with the subject is really very unsatisfactory. If he had no intention to settle the question, why did he receive so many memorials on the subject? It is said in favour of Urdu that it was in vogue in the time of the Muhammadan kings, but even in point of seniority Hindi does not yield the palm to that language, because Hindi was used in the time of Hindu kings who preceded the Muhammadans. We hope Dr. Hunter will recommend the revival of all the old customs and institutions which existed in the time of the late Muhammadan supremacy. We shall not easily forget the severe stroke which Dr. Hunter has given us with his hunting whip. If our countrymen keep up the agitation, Government will undoubtedly accede to our wishes sooner or later. (The *Prayág Samáchár*, Allahabad, of the 31st December, also finds fault with Dr. Hunter.)

Circulation,
700 copies.

The Prayág Samáchár (Allahabad), of the 31st December, points out some misprints in the Sanskrit questions set at the late Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, and observes that many candidates may have had to spend a portion of their valuable time in detecting the misprints, and many may have been misled by them. The editor is of opinion that the examiner in Sanskrit should make allowance for the misprints in giving marks, otherwise great injustice will be done to candidates.

The same paper states that stamp-vendors at the head-quarters of districts properly write the names of purchasers, &c., on stamps in Hindi according to rule, but in the interior of districts the stamp-vendors use Mahéjani, which is vague and ambiguous, and which none but Mahéjans can read. Moreover, it is believed that in the interior of the country stamp-vendors charge premium on stamps. Government should make an inquiry into the matter, and put a stop to the objectionable practices, if they are really found to prevail at any place.

The Hindustani (Lucknow), of the 27th December, publishes a communication from an ex-

Pay of kánungos.

kánungo. The writer argues that the

pay of kánungos is too small. When he was a kánungo, his pay, which was Rs. 30 a month, was spent as follows :— He kept one moharrir at Rs. 8 a month, one good pony, which cost him Rs. 12 a month, one cook on Rs. 4, and one other man to wash the kitchen utensils and do other menial work on Rs. 4, and he paid Rs. 2 as house-rent. He had nothing left to support himself and his family, and hence he was soon obliged to resign his post. In commenting upon the above communication, the editor remarks that the pay of kánungos is really quite inadequate, and it is notorious that they have to eke out their scanty salaries by extorting bribes from patwáris and zamiindárs. The editor urges that their pay should be increased to Rs. 50, one assistant should be given to each of them, and they should be allowed a small travelling allowance.

Circulation,
500 copies.

The Rájputána Gazette (Ajmere), of the 24th December,

Extension of the jurisdiction of the Allahabad High Court over Ajmere.

states that formerly, when the North-Western Provinces High Court was at Agra, Ajmere was under the jurisdiction of that Court.

But on the removal of the Court from Agra to Allahabad, Ajmere was taken out from under its jurisdiction, as there was no railroad from Ajmere to Allahabad at the time, and the Political Agent to the Governor-General for Rájputána, who is *ex-officio* Chief Commissioner of Ajmere, was invested with the powers of a High Court. That was an evil day for Ajmere. Evidently the Political Agent has no thorough acquaintance with the law, and his training is quite different from that of a High Court Judge. Moreover, he has always his hands full with political work. (to be continued).

Circulation,
263 copies.

The Aystab-i-Panjab (Lahore), of the 24th December, states

Jail Industries.

that the paper manufacturers at Sialkot lately forwarded a memorial to

Circulation,
500 copies.

Government complaining that they were unable to carry on their trade owing to the competition of jails. In accordance with their wishes, Government has ordered jail officers not to sell paper, made in jails, below market rates, and has also promised that if that arrangement did not improve their prospects some other measures would be adopted for their benefit. Evidently the concession made will not mend matters. Private enterprize cannot flourish unless jail industries are entirely abolished in accordance with Lord Ripon's Resolution of October, 1882. The Secretary of State has not been well advised in refusing sanction to his lordship's proposal. The abolition of jail industries would undoubtedly involve some loss of revenue, but surely it does not become Government to carry on any kind of trade.

Circulation,
500 copies.

The *Astāb-i-Punjāb* (Lahore), of the 24th December, so-called Shāh Dūlā's publishes a communicated article in rats in the Panjāb. which the writer states that it appears from the *Civil and Military Gazette* that the Panjāb Government has issued orders to the effect that when any so-called Shāh Dūlā's rats are to be seen ill-treated by their guardians, they should be seized and sent to the Lunatic Asylum at Lahore, where they will be properly fed. We heartily welcome these orders, but we anxiously await the day when the inhuman custom of turning children into the so-called Shāh Dūlā's rats will be entirely prohibited. When Government has put a stop to cruel customs, such as the suttee, &c., even though they were regarded as religious, it should not at all demur to deal with the custom in question. The presenting of children by their parents at the Shāh's shrine and the deforming of such children by the priests at the shrine should be made cognisable offences liable to severe punishment like infanticide. (The *Panjābī Akhbār*, Lahore, of the 26th December, describes the origin of the so-called rats, thanks the Panjāb Government for the orders issued by it for their proper treatment, but urges that Government

should adopt measures to put a stop to the evil custom in question.)

A correspondent of the *Oudh Akhbar* (Lucknow), of the Administration of justice.

28th December, complains that a large portion of the valuable time of highly paid officers is spent in hearing criminal cases of assault and simple hurt, and observes that such cases could be satisfactorily decided by village panchayats. The writer also endeavours to show that civil justice is very costly and is practically inaccessible to the poorer classes of people.

A correspondent of the *Reformer* (Lahore), of the 26th December, complains that it is very difficult for any one to obtain a copy of any document from a court of law

in the Panjab unless he pays a bribe to court officials. If he does not pay anything, he has to dance attendance for weeks. Some satisfactory arrangements should be made for the grant of copies of documents by courts.

The *Reformer* (Lahore), of the 26th December, complains that one Akbar Ali, at Lahore, has composed some love poems by plagiarism and printed them for sale. In

order to secure a sale for his poems he recites them in streets and thoroughfares with music. His recitals attract a large crowd of people around him and afford a good opportunity to pickpockets to ply their vile trade. Moreover, his poems are calculated to corrupt the morals of students. The police would do well to advise him to open a stall for the sale of his poems like an ordinary book-seller.

L E G I S L A T I O N .

The *Hindustani* (Lucknow), of the 30th December, referring to the concordat concluded between the Government of India and the Defence Association in the matter of the Bill, observes:—We understand of the

Circulation,
610 copies.

Circulation,
700 copies.

Circulation,
700 copies.

Circulation,
500 copies.

With profound regret we did not at first believe the news, but it has received ample confirmation. The arrangement seriously affects the principle of the measure and is sure to evoke an outburst of indignation from the whole native community. The Bill, as modified by the introduction of the jury clause, will not remove race disqualifications but create new rights for Anglo-Indians. Hitherto European criminals could not ask for trial by jury in non-jury districts and in the Courts of District Magistrates, but in future they will be entitled to that privilege in every district and before every District Magistrate, whether he be a European or a native. Europeans often waived their birth-right and allowed their cases to be tried by native Deputy Magistrates, but in future they will never agree to appear before the latter. It is difficult to realize how the Viceroy's Council, with their eyes open, have yielded to the unreasonable Anglo-Indian agitation. This unwise action of Government is fraught with serious consequences and cannot be too deeply regretted. The success of the European agitation on the present occasion will not only encourage Europeans to resort to the same tactics when Government introduces any other measure unpalatable to them in future, but what is worse, it will also teach a bad lesson to the native population. To our thinking, the members of the Viceregal Council and not Lord Ripon are chiefly responsible for the modification in question. A shrewd statesman like his lordship could never willingly agree to such a stupid and mischievous proposal. Probably his advisers have brought pressure to bear upon him to consent to the arrangement. The distinguishing feature of the proposed change is that neither natives nor Europeans are satisfied with it. Moreover, even European Magistrates cannot approve of it, inasmuch as it is calculated to transfer all powers from them to railway engine-drivers and tea-planters in the cases of Europeans. Our countrymen should now be up and doing. They should hold meetings in all parts of the country and pass resolutions in condemnation

of the jury clause. We would be the last person to ask for any special indulgence for our countrymen. We only want fair play.

LOCAL.

The *Aīna-i-Sikandari* (Morādābād), of the 25th December, Need for the watering complains that streets at Morādābād of streets at Morādābād. are not at all watered during the cold weather, and the people are exposed to great inconvenience from dust in consequence, especially when streets are swept. The articles, exposed for sale in the shops in the streets, are spoiled by dust. In order to avoid this evil the principal streets should be watered every day a short time before they are swept. The Magistrate and the Municipal Committee should see to this.

Circulation,
80 copies.

The *Nir-i-Baddūn*, of the 27th December, complains that Gambling and theft at gambling and theft are largely on the Badāun. increase at Badāun.

Circulation,
250 copies.

The *Hindustāni* (Lucknow), of the 30th December, complains that the streets and lanes at Neglected condition of streets at Lucknow. Lucknow are, as a rule, in a most neglected condition, and the people, especially those who have to walk barefooted, are exposed to great inconvenience in consequence. It would seem that the lanes have never been repaired since they were first metalled. The Municipal Committee could keep them in order at no large annual outlay.

Circulation,
500 copies.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF MANUSCRIPT.	CIRCULATION.
1	Azab-i-Hind	..	Urdu	Ditto	Barkat Ali	Dec. 29th	1883-84.	150 copies.
2	Azab-i-Panjab	..	Lahore	..	Divan Bútá Singh,	" 24th, 26th & 28th.	Dec. 30th, 27th, 29th & 31st respectively.	500 copies.
3	Azab-i-Akbar	..	Agrá	Ditto	Manú Baksh	" 28th	Jan. 1st	200 copies.
4	Azab-i-Sikandar	..	Morádábád	Ditto	Ahmad Baksh	" 25th	Dec. 30th	80 copies.
5	Azab-i-Akbar	..	Ditto	Ditto	Diláwar Ali	" 24th	" 28th	184 copies.
6	Azab-i-Akbar	..	Meerut	Ditto	Maqarrab Hussain	" 25th	" "	100 copies.
7	Azab-i-Akbar	..	Lahore	Bi-weekly	Mukund Ram	" 26th & 29th	" 29th & 31st	1,800 copies taken by Govt.
8	Azab-i-Tamannat	..	Lucknow	Ditto	Púran Chand	" 24th	125 copies.	"
9	Azab-i-Akbar	..	Delhi	Ditto	Fakhrul-dín	" 25th	..	"
10	Azab-i-Akbar	..	Allághárd	Bi-weekly	Gulb Ráj	" 25th & 29th	" 31st	295 copies (including 68 copies taken by Govt.)
11	Almord Akbar	..	Hindi	Weekly	Sadé Nand	" 24th	27th	98 copies.
12	Ajeman-i-Hind	..	Urdu	Ditto	Chandan Lal	" 22nd & 29th	28th & 2nd Jan.	141 copies.
13	Azab-i-Akbar	..	Ditto	Ditto	Tegh Bahádur	" 20th & 27th	" 27th & 30th	230 copies.
14	Azab-i-Sunat	..	Lahore	Monthly	Muhammad Hussain	For Aug. & Sep., Jan. 2nd	"	800 copies.

List of papers examined—(continued).

No.	Name.	Locality.	Language.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	Name of Publisher.	Date of Paper.	Date of Report.	Circulation.
26	Leena-i-Nur	"	Jaunpur	Urdu	Hassan Abdullah	Dec. 23rd	Dec. 31st	75 copies.
27	Lorraine Gazette	"	Meerut	Ditto	Iqbal-i-din	" 19th	" 29th	165 "
28	Lyall Gazette	"	Ditto	Ditto	Ganesha Lal	" 1st	Jan. 2nd	100 "
29	Lyon Gazette	"	Delhi	Ditto	Bulqisi Das	Dec. 24th	Dec. 27th	300 "
30	Mahr-i-Gazelle	Jodhpur	Hindi-Urdu	Weekly	Godardhan Das	" "	Dec. 1st	100 "
40	Mahr-i-Qasoor	Lucknow	Urdu	Ditto	Ghulam Muhammad	" "	" 27th	200 "
41	Mahr-i-Qasoor	Ditto	Nabi Baksh	" "	Jan. 1st	40 "
42	Mahr-i-Nab	Cawnpore	Urdu	Monthly	Muqarrab Hussain	" "	Dec. 28th	823 copies (including 50 copies taken by Govt.)
43	Mahr-i-Sindat	Meerut	Ditto	..	Khan	" "	" "	100 copies.
44	Mahr-i-Darakhsh	Deli	Ditto	Weekly	Nusrat Ali	" "	Jan. 2nd	140 "
45	Mahr-i-Muros	Bijnor	Ditto	Ditto	Malika-i-Nish	" "	" 24th & 31st Dec.	250 "
46	Mithra-Vitch	Lahore	Hindi	..	Mukund Ram	" "	Jan. 1st	res. respectively.
47	Mir Gazette	Meerut	Urdu	Ditto	Khushwaqt Ali	" "	Both	70 "
48	Mundira-i-Alam	Bartabanki	Urdu	Ditto	Muhammad Yusuf	" "	" 29th	160 "
49	Mujgar-i-Amin	Mordibed	Ditto	Ditto	Amjad Ali	" "	" 28th	175 "
50	Mujam-i-Majlis	Rawrah	Urdu	Ditto	Rashid Ali Khan	" "	" 27th	150 "
51	Mujum-i-Hind	Merdabad	Ditto	Ditto	Prestip Krishna	" "	" 20th	150 "
52	Muzin-i-Agra	Agra	Ditto	Ditto	Jammia Das	" "	Jan. 1st	825 "
53	Muzin-i-Mian	Fatehpur,	Ditto	Ditto	Kanj Bilal Lal	" "	Dec. 27th	90 "

List of papers circulating 1884—(continued).

No.	Name.	Language.	Frequency, or otherwise wise.	Name of publisher.	Date of paper.	Circulation.
73	Victoria Paper	... Sialkot ... Urdu	... Daily	Guru Chand	1883. Dec. 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, last & 2nd Jan. respectively.	200 copies.
74	Print Dispt. Wazirpur, Alm.	Dhar ... Ghazipur ... Urdu	Weekly ... Ditto	Hari Bhushan Shriji-J-din Ahmad	" 28th " 29th	120 " 200 "

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